

THE DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20505

National Intelligence Council

NIC #8731-83  
5 December 1983

MEMORANDUM FOR: Herbert E. Meyer  
Vice Chairman, National Intelligence Council

FROM :   
Assistant NIO for General Purpose Forces

SUBJECT : Comments on Your "Rampant Violence" Memo, NIC #8640-83,  
Dated 30 November 83

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1. I was shocked by your insightful piece on global violence because I had failed to link orchestration of this cacophony to Moscow. After reading and mulling over your paper it suddenly occurred that my old Masters thesis written in 1969 on Soviet foreign policy; the conclusion of which is attached, echoed the same theme. I am also attaching an article from The Washington Post's Outlook section, December 4, 1983, that speaks to this subject. Should the ruling clique decide that internal pressure had exceeded safety limits and more forays into foreign regions were expedient, despite the danger of superpower confrontation, the future of the entire world could well be held in the balance. A decrepit, bankrupt and tottering oligarchy is still much to be feared in the nuclear age. You may indeed be right that the US is winning the battle; I am fearful that in the war we may all be losers.

2. You can easily see that your thesis struck a nerve. We are in agreement on causes and effects but our conclusions may be different. I find myself much less sanguine about our inevitable success in the race with the Soviet Union because I am still fearful of the consequences of this military giant who can claim only one success story--military might. The US must be vigilant (intelligence) and strong (deterrence), but I feel we must "compel" them to reduce armaments by the weight of our strength, determination and logic. Much of military power is perception, equal arms reduction should therefore be perceived as stabilizing. With reduced arsenals the USSR might feel less inclined to use force to preserve its own fragile legitimacy or defuse internal frustration. However, in the long run I wonder how long either superpower can continue to pour its wealth into the bottomless pit of weaponry.

3. We need more long range and deep thinking on this subject. I see no recourse at present than to continue spending on arms to match our resolve with theirs but this cannot persist for generations. You are entirely correct that the USSR has failed its people by attaching its star to a bankrupt ideology. At the present rate the Soviet Socialist State will never achieve communism which Lenin predicted in due course. (Is 60 years due course?)

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4. This subject would make a wonderful seminar within the Intelligence Community along with invited political, military and academic participation. Is there such a vehicle for sharing in existence? As new boy on the block I am unaware of a CIA forum for such an undertaking but, subject to approval and workload, I would enjoy continuing this discussion and working to expose your thesis to a wider audience.

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Attachments:  
As stated

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